



February 10, 2014

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **February 24**.

This issue contains information from **January 27 – February 10** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

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Topics and Highlights

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COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:

Chikungunya Virus – An Emerging Threat to the Americas

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Dial In Number: 888-233-9077

Passcode: 8291522

Webinar: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW4203438&p=8291522&t=c>

Chikungunya virus is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause fever and severe polyarthralgia. Outbreaks of the chikungunya have occurred in countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In late 2013, the first local chikungunya virus transmission in the Americas was reported on islands in the Caribbean. Travelers to areas with ongoing outbreaks are at risk of becoming infected and spreading the virus to new areas, including the United States. During this COCA call, a CDC subject matter expert will provide information on chikungunya virus epidemiology, clinical findings, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Additionally, they will describe the importance of early recognition and reporting of suspected cases to mitigate the risk of local transmission.

CE = Free Continuing Education

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_021814.asp

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Malaria Cases in the U.S. Reach 40-Year High: Information and Guidance for Clinicians

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014

The number of malaria cases reported in the United States in 2011 was the largest since 1971, representing a 14% increase from 2010 and a 48% increase from 2008. The majority of malaria infections occurred among persons who traveled to regions with ongoing malaria transmission. Imported malaria can reintroduce malaria into regions where the disease is not endemic and environmental conditions are present that support the lifecycle of the parasite. During this COCA call, a CDC subject matter expert described malaria prevention strategies aimed at reducing the risk of malaria in travelers, discussed the diagnosis of malaria in patients with suspect malaria, and explained the treatment options for confirmed malaria cases.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_012814.asp

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls. For more information on free CE: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp>

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Science Clips: Volume 6, Issue: 5 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Public Health Preparedness

NEW: 2013 – 2013 National Public Health Preparedness Snapshot – (HHS)

http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/pubs-links/2013/documents/2013_Preparedness_Report.pdf

NEW: EPA Webinar: Training for Healthcare Providers on Indicators of Drinking Water Contamination – (EPA)

This webinar will educate public health professionals about drinking water systems and indicators of possible drinking water contamination, and will convey methods for communicating information to partners who play a role in protecting public health.

<https://www.thetestportal.com/RecognizingWaterContamination>

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp>

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

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- [National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day — February 7, 2014](#)
- [Noninfluenza Vaccination Coverage Among Adults — United States, 2012](#)
- [Global Control and Regional Elimination of Measles, 2000–2012](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Update: Norovirus Overview – (CDC)

Norovirus is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the United States. Each year, it causes 19-21 million illnesses and contributes to 56,000-71,000 hospitalizations and 570-800 deaths. Norovirus is also the most common cause of foodborne-disease outbreaks in the United States.

For more information, please visit the archived **COCA Call: Stopping Norovirus in its Tracks – What Every Clinician Should Know:**

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_011713.asp

NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Keeping Tabs on Deadly Diseases – February 6 (CDC)

CDC is responsible for protecting the public from a host of health threats, including some pretty scary pathogens, like Ebola virus or anthrax for example. One way we do this is through our Select Agents Program which is responsible for governing and regulating the use of certain pathogens by research facilities and labs around the world.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2014/02/keeping-tabs/>

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – February 10 (CDC)

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

Seasonal Influenza

Weekly Flu View – February 1 (CDC)

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

Travel Safety

NEW: Travel Notice: Chikungunya in the Caribbean – February 6 (CDC)

In December 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported local transmission of chikungunya in Saint Martin. Local transmission means that mosquitoes in the area have been infected with chikungunya and are spreading it to people. This is the first time that local transmission of chikungunya has been reported in the Americas. Local transmission of chikungunya is now being reported in other countries in the Caribbean.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/chikungunya-saint-martin>

For more information, please participate in the upcoming COCA Call by visiting:

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_021814.asp

Current Travel Warnings – February 10 (US Department of State)

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Food, Drug and Device Safety

NEW: Drug Alert: IV Fluid Shortage – January 31 (FDA)

FDA is aware of the shortage situation for intravenous (IV) solutions, particularly 0.9% sodium chloride injection (i.e., saline) used to provide patients with the necessary fluids for hydration and other conditions. The shortage has been triggered by a range of factors including a reported increased demand by hospitals, potentially related to the flu season.

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm382255.htm>

NEW: Clinical Update: Yellow Fever Vaccine Shortage – January 28 (CDC)

The manufacturer of yellow fever vaccine (YF-Vax), Sanofi Pasteur (Swiftwater, PA), has informed CDC that the supply of YF-Vax (the only yellow fever vaccine available in the United States) is currently limited. As a result, the manufacturer has placed limits on orders of the single-dose and 5-dose vials of YF-Vax. These ordering limits are expected to be in place until April 2014.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/news-announcements/yellow-fever-vaccine-shortage-2014>

NEW: FDA Investigates Puffer Fish Poisoning Illness in Virginia – January 28 (FDA)

The FDA and state and local officials investigated a case of tetrodotoxin poisoning in Fairfax County, Virginia which is believed to be linked to the consumption of imported puffer fish that was not processed and prepared by specially trained and certified fish cutters as part of an agreement between the U.S. and Japan.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm382240.htm>

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at coca@cdc.gov

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#) - CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories.



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